

1 discrimination cognizable under the ADA.¹³ Therefore, his ADA claims against the
 2 state should also be dismissed.

3

4 **2. The facts alleged, even if true, do not support an inference that
 5 the state defendants may have violated Mr. Deans' rights**

6 In the alternative, if Mr. Deans could have a cause of action against the
 7 state defendants under the IDEA, Section 1983, or the ADA, he must allege facts that
 8 would indicate that a state defendant has violated one of these statutes. He has not done
 9 so. This provides an additional reason to dismiss this action.¹⁴

10

11 Assuming that Mr. Deans' "Verified Motion for Summary Judgment" will
 12 be treated as a complaint, it states facts mostly about actions of employees of the
 13 Anchorage School District. The factual allegations regarding the state defendants are
 14 sparse. As explained below, those facts that are alleged do not indicate that any state
 15 official has done anything wrong.

16

17 The first paragraph that alleges any facts about the state defendants is
 18 paragraph 86, which mentions the State Educational Agency. This paragraph alleges that

19

20 ¹³ See, e.g., *Armstrong ex rel. Steffensen v. Alicante School*, 44 F.Supp.2d
 21 1087, 1090 (E.D. Cal. 1999) (dismissing ADA claims involving special education rights
 based on an IDEA claim that had no merit).

22 ¹⁴ See, e.g., *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't* 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir.
 23 1990) ("complaint should not be dismissed under Rule 12(b)(6) 'unless it appears
 24 beyond doubt that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of his claim which
 25 would entitle him to relief.' *Conley v. Gibson*, 355 U.S. 41, 45-46, 78 S.Ct. 99, 101-02,
 2 L.Ed.2d 80 (1957). Dismissal can be based on the lack of a cognizable legal theory or
 the absence of sufficient facts alleged under a cognizable legal theory.")

1 Deans was rushed into a Pre-Hearing. Yet, timelines for special education hearings are
 2 short—a hearing officer has only 45 days in which to issue a decision.¹⁵ Even if
 3 Mr. Deans felt rushed by this short deadline, that does not give him a cause of action
 4 against Mr. Arnold, Ms. Schumacher, or the department. Paragraph 86 also alleges that
 5 the Anchorage School District was allowed to ignore the “stay-put” requirement.
 6 Similarly, paragraph 94 alleges that the “Alaska State Dept. Did not follow, procedures
 7 regarding the Stay-put provision.”¹⁶ Yet, neither Mr. Arnold nor Ms. Schumacher—nor
 8 any other employee of the Department—have a responsibility to implement the stay put
 9 provision—only the Anchorage School District can do that.¹⁷ Accordingly, the facts
 10 alleged in paragraphs 89 and 94 do not state a claim for relief.
 11

13 Paragraphs 90-93 describe correspondence between Mr. Deans and the
 14 department. These paragraphs allege that Mr. Deans wrote at least three times to the
 15 department, and filed three complaints. The only allegation that involves action or
 16 inaction by the department is found in paragraph 91, which states in its entirety: “I did
 17 not hear from the State Educational Agency until Oct. 3, 2005, by phone in which they
 18

19 ¹⁵ 4 AAC 52.550(f).

20 ¹⁶ Verified Motion for Summary Judgment at ¶ 94 (capitalization and
 21 punctuation in original). A further reason to reject these averments is that they are
 22 conclusory—they do not tell us what any official actually did; they merely conclude that
 23 someone did not follow procedures.

24 ¹⁷ The state is not accepting Mr. Deans’ view that the Anchorage School
 25 District did anything wrong. Here, however, the only thing the state officials could have
 done was to provide dispute resolution *process* to Mr. Deans; they could not have
 evaluated him or implemented his IEP.

1 talked of mediation, in flying in someone from Montana in about 10 days.”¹⁸ Nothing in
2 this paragraph alleges an action or inaction that, if true, would constitute a violation of
3 Mr. Deans’ rights. In sum, paragraphs 90-93 do not allege any facts that, if true, would
4 establish that the state defendants did anything wrong. No other paragraphs in this
5 document make allegations of wrongdoing by state officials or otherwise allege facts
6 from which a possible state liability to Mr. Deans could be inferred. Accordingly, this
7 court should dismiss the state defendants from this action

9

10 **3. Mr. Deans cannot bring a § 1983 action based on the IDEA
11 because the enforcement scheme of the IDEA precludes a § 1983
12 action**

13 As the Anchorage School District has argued, the comprehensive
14 enforcement scheme of the IDEA precludes a cause of action under Section 1983. This
15 doctrine is based on *Blessing* or *Gonzaga* preclusion, based on the two cases of the
16 United States Supreme Court which made clear that a detailed administrative
17 enforcement scheme in a provision means that Congress impliedly precluded use of
18 Section 1983 to enforce the provision. The state joins in the argument of the Anchorage
19 School District on this issue and adopts its briefing on this issue by reference. This
20 provides an alternative grounds for dismissing the state defendants from Deans’ Section
21 1983 claims.

23

24 ¹⁸ Verified Motion for Summary Judgment at ¶ 91. Note that the department
25 is required to make mediation available to complainants. 4 AAC 52.490; 34 C.F.R. § 300.506 (1999). In paragraph 92, Mr. Deans states that he rejected mediation.

1 **C. The state defendants should be dismissed because of insufficiency of
2 process and service of process**

3 **1. The service of process has been insufficient for all state
4 defendants**

5 The state joins in the Anchorage School District's Motion to Dismiss on
6 the issue of insufficiency of process and adopts by reference the facts and arguments on
7 this issue made by the district in support of its motion. The state defendants request that
8 they be dismissed from this case for the reasons stated by the district.
9

10 In addition to all of the deficiencies in service that have been enumerated
11 by the district, service has been insufficient on all of the state defendants because
12 Mr. Deans did not serve the attorney general as required by FRCP 4(j)(2). Under this
13 rule, service upon the state must either be made upon the governor or as required by
14 Alaska Civil Rule 4, which requires service upon both the state officer and the attorney
15 general.¹⁹ Mr. Deans has not served the attorney general. Accordingly, the state
16 defendants should be dismissed.
17

18 **2. Neither Mr. Arnold nor the department have been physically
19 served**

20 Of the three state defendants, the record reflects that Deans has attempted
21 to serve only Ms. Schumacher, who received a summons and the "complaint" by mail.
22 Although a summons for Mr. Arnold has been lodged at Docket No. 30, it clearly states
23

24 ¹⁹ Alaska R. Civ. P. 4(d)(7) & (d)(8).

1 on the summons form that the summons was “served directly to principal Cheryl
2 Guyett.”²⁰ Ms. Guyett appears to be an employee of the Anchorage School District. She
3 does not work for the State of Alaska and has no authority or apparent authority to accept
4 service for Mr. Arnold. Because Mr. Arnold has not been served, he should be
5 dismissed as a defendant.

7 The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has not been
8 served and there is no record of any attempt to serve the department. Moreover, the
9 evidence indicates that Mr. Deans does not consider the department to be a defendant—
10 the department is not listed on the document titled “Civil Rights Complaint” (also titled
11 “Verified Motion of Summary Judgment”) served upon Ms. Schumacher. Further, the
12 department would not be a proper defendant under Section 1983 because the department
13 is not a person.²¹ Accordingly, the department should be dismissed.

15

16 **D. Conclusion**

17 This court does not have subject matter jurisdiction over this matter
18 because Mr. Deans has failed to exhaust his administrative remedies. In addition,
19 Mr. Deans has failed to state a claim against the state defendants. The state defendants
20 do not have a responsibility to provide Mr. Deans with an education and are not a proper
21

24

25 ²⁰ Docket No. 30.

26 ²¹ *Will v. Mich. Dep’t of State Police*, 491 U.S. 58, 71 (1989).

1 respondent in an action regarding Mr. Deans' special education. Accordingly, the state
2 defendants should be dismissed with prejudice.

3 TALIS J. COLBERG
4 ATTORNEY GENERAL

5 By:

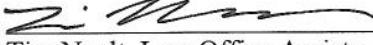


6 Stephen C. Slotnick
7 Assistant Attorney General
8 Alaska Bar No. 9011113

9 **Certificate of Service**

10 I certify that on January 3, 2007, a copy of the
11 foregoing document and PROPOSED ORDER
12 were sent via USPS, first class postage pre-paid,
13 to the following attorneys and parties of record:

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15 
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